

To: Robert Roache, Supervisor

Date November 13, 1985

SUBJECT: Special assignment Complaint #85-781 11/12/85.

Tony Mulay and I approached the inspection as a training exercise, inasmuch as I am an older inspector and he is a "new" one.

We drove through Lyons and I asked Tony, at various locations, what do you smell? On Joliet Road, we identified 1- Corn Products, 2- the Metropolitan Sludge Basins, and 3- the Central Blacktop's asphalt odors filled our truck, south of the expressway, and lingered with us south of 55th Street.

Our noses cleared after we were in Hodgkins, about three miles south of Central Blacktop.

The industrial plumes were almost due north, and the weather was damp and light drizzle. After a few on the street interviews, wherein we inquired about odors and what the people "smelled". None of the odors were as pronounced as the odors we found at the trailer park. One lady at the mailboxes of the trailer park where we were "interviewing" inside the trailer park said she smelled "rotten eggs", and we agreed with her....the odor inside the park was pronounced.

*And Tony smelled a sulphur scent.*

One person mentioned that the park was built upon an old "dump", which did not register at the moment, so we did not get his name.

We interviewed Mr. Sam Eiserman, Manager of the trailer Park and his secretary, in his office. Mr Eiserman mentioned the "Loud" train whistles, and the "blasting" from the Vulcan quarry, which they find disturbing. We listened to the complaints and mentioned the main purpose of our visit was to take pictures of the "white powder" which we expected to be Perlite from Silbrico.

We gave Mr Eiserman a notice for hearing on the "Perlite" problem and proceeded to inquire about the powder and its toxic effects which seemed to bother the occupants of the Park.

We drove in and out of the park and worked our way over to the Hodgkins village hall and interviewed the Mayor and Police Chief, Mayor Noel Cummings and Police Chief Richard Stewart. We presented copies of the NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING IN OUR OFFICE 4th, DECEMBER 1985. The purpose of the hearing is to resolve the problem of the discharge of perlite as a hazardous material into the atmosphere.

We drove into the park and around the various trailers "smelling" as we travelled. The odor was uniquely prevalent in the park and NOT outside the immediate park area.

We stopped at the Shirley Drenning trailer and interviewed Mrs. Drenning and Daughter.....During this visit....the pieces seemed to fall into place.

- 1- Trailer park built on a former "junk yard" land fill.
- 2- Noises triggered which seem unusually loud which indicates the nervecenters of the occupants are "keyed" to a fight-or-flight syndrome.
- 3- Blasts from the quarry are equally annoying for the same reason.
- 4- The perlite "fall-out" seems to be the cause of the problems which is the most obviously apparent substance(s)
- 5- our research documentation shows the perlite to be the "last substance" to generate the above symptoms.
- 6- the weather: A heavy rain would wash away any seeping substance lifted to the ground surface which would be lighter than water...such as oil based chemistry from the former land-fill.

a light rain would not be enough to bring

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the toxic material to the surface.

Dry weather was not a problem, and our inspections in dry weather always show nothing as evidenced by our office files.

WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS, BUT WE DO KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS NOT.....WHICH IS THE PERLITE.

RECOMMENDATION: Call the Hazardous material land-fill section of the US EPA and have test borings made to find out what is coming to the surface with the saturated soil.